المجلس الإسلامي
Islamic Council

PRESS RELEASE
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EXECUTIONS IN EGYPT

The Islamic Council condemned as an outrage the hanging in Cairo yesterday of 7 Egyptians found guilty by military courts and sentenced to death without right to appeal. The Council said that the trials were grossly unfair, unconstitutional and did not comply with international standards of justice.

The Council laid the blame for the upsurge in violence in Egypt squarely at the door of the Mubarak regime. It stated that, since coming to power Mubarak had not ruled for a single day without recourse to emergency laws and that the Egyptian people were deprived of the most basic human rights. The actions of Mubarak's regime were well-documented by objective organisations as diverse as Amnesty International and the US Department of State's Human Rights' Division and the catalogue of human rights abuses was endless and proven. Arbitrary arrests were routine, people were victimised, imprisonment without trial was normal, cases brought to trial were frequently heard before military or special courts and there was no right to appeal, re-arrests after acquittals were normal and torture was prevalent, not exceptional. This was the true reason for the growing unrest and discontent in Egypt, along with blatant and widespread corruption and the regime's inept mismanagement of the economy.

The Council urged that all possible pressure be put on Mubarak and his regime to change their ways and to respect the rights of the Egyptian people who were peace-loving and did not easily or lightly resort to violence. The situation was very serious and Mubarak should realise that executions after unfair trials would do nothing to improve it. The Council prayed that the other Egyptians condemned to death and currently awaiting execution would be spared.

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